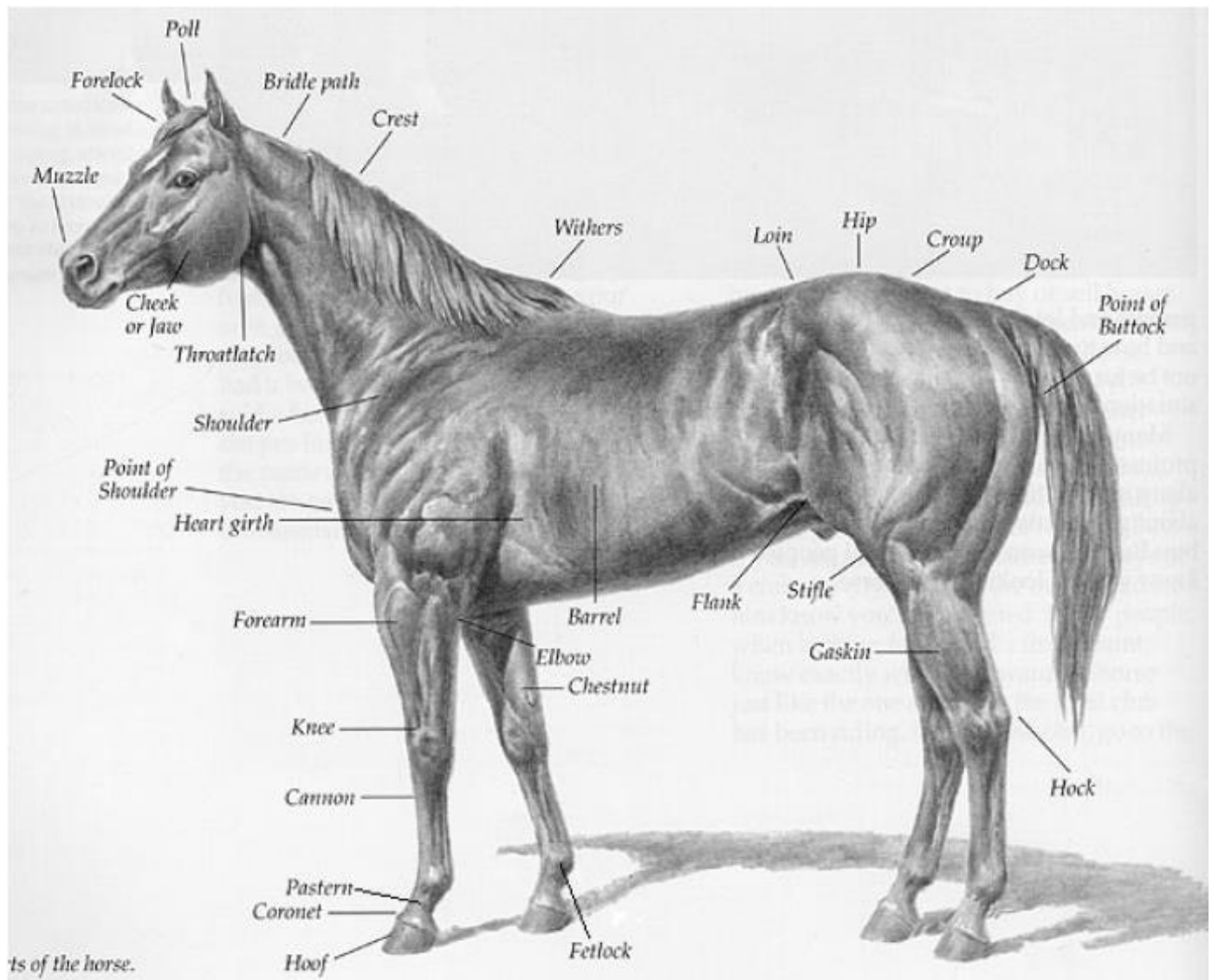


LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY 4-H HORSE POLICY



(Current Revision 2015)

WELCOME TO THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM!

The Horse Committee hopes that you and your parents will take a few minutes to read through this important information. This policy manual will help you understand the expectations and requirements for each project to ensure a successful experience for you and your horse.

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LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY HORSE PROJECT

History: The 4-H horse and pony project started in the 1950's as a pilot project in Lewis and Clark County. Over the years the horse members and leaders have developed it into a major project in the county and state. The Lewis and Clark County Horse Committee was instrumental in initiating a statewide horse show and project.

In 1977, Lewis & Clark County developed a horse show guidebook for the Montana 4-H Foundation, which initiated support for the first State 4-H Horse Show. The Foundation supported the event concept and the guidelines. The Foundation also agreed to financially back the committee for the first two years. The first State 4-H Horse Show was held in Helena at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds in the Multi-Purpose Building in 1979. The idea and the first two shows were considered a success both financially and in terms of participation. At that time, the State 4-H Office included the development of the State Horse Show as part of the responsibilities of the State 4-H Horse Committee. In subsequent years, the State 4-H Horse Show was then awarded to counties through a proposal and bid basis. The State 4-H Horse Committee selected the County that was to host the State 4-H Show annually. Lewis and Clark County hosted the show in 1979, 1980, 1982, and 1983. The "Official" State 4-H Horse Show took place from 1979 to 1994 in various counties across the state.

The Lewis and Clark Horse Committee was a part of the county Overall Livestock Committee for many years. However, in 1995, it broke off from the Overall Livestock Committee and became an independent entity reporting directly to the County 4-H Leaders Council. As of late, the Horse Committee is again part of the Overall Outdoor Committee and is currently reporting directly to the Overall Outdoor Superintendent.

Purpose: The purpose of the Lewis and Clark County 4-H horse program is to help members:

- Develop life skills
- Foster a positive self-concept
- Learn decision-making and responsibility for choices
- Develop an inquiring mind
- Relate to self and others; acquire a concern for communities - local & global
- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
- Experience the pride and responsibility of having a horse by being involved in its training, care, feeding, management and related costs.
- Appreciate horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- Gain skill in horsemanship, patience, and understanding in handling horses.
- Acknowledge safety precautions to prevent injuries to themselves, others, and their mounts.
- Nurture greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
- Promote 4-H in general and promote the state 4-H horse project and program.

- Promote uniformity among county horse projects.
- Promote goals of the 4-H horse project.
- Promote excellence in horsemanship.
- Encourage individuals to perform to the best of their abilities.
- Encourage and recognize horsemanship ability.
- Set and achieve goals utilizing the best of one's ability.
- Provide a base of uniformity for the horse project.

GETTING STARTED

The five main objectives of the Montana 4-H Horse Program are to:

- learn what makes a good horse and how to select one
- learn to properly care for horses
- learn to safely use your horse
- learn to train and handle horses
- enjoy a healthful outdoor recreational lifetime activity

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE HORSE & HORSELESS HORSE PROGRAM

- Youth 8 years old as of October 1 of the current 4-H year are eligible to participate in the Horse Project. Some projects may require the member to be older and/or assessed to a certain Horsemanship levels in order to participate – please see the individual project requirements for clarification. Cloverbuds are not allowed to participate in Horse Projects.
- Any 4-H member may enroll in a Horseless Project (i.e. Horse Judging, Horseless Horsemanship, and Horse Careers) without the prerequisites of the completion of Horsemanship levels 1-3.
- For a 4-H member to progress from one level to another within a horse project, it is only considered valid when accompanied by the signature of a member of the Assessment Team.

The Montana 4-H Horse Program is made up of ten separate horse project areas. Members are eligible to participate in the Horse Projects according to their ability and skill level. These skill levels, however, do not necessarily correspond to years in the project. It is possible to complete several levels in a year, or youth may take several years to complete one level. Assessments are provided for Superintendents to determine when a member has completed a level and is ready to move to the next level.

Montana 4-H Horse Projects include:

Horseless Horse: If you don't own a horse, some of the activities in this project will help you decide if you want to continue your pursuit of learning about, riding, and caring for horses. A Horseless Horse project member may also enroll simultaneously in Horsemanship, Horse Judging, and Horse Careers projects.

Horsemanship: There are seven levels of horsemanship where members develop riding skills, increase their knowledge of horses, and study horse care and safety. 4-H members must complete Level 3 to enroll in advanced horse projects, unless specified differently.

Colt to Maturity: Training a young horse from the weanling stage through the five-year-old year. Members must be 12 years old or older during the current 4-H year and have completed Horsemanship Levels 1, 2, and 3.

Green Horse: Training a green broke horse of any age. Members must be 12 years old or older during the current 4-H year and have completed Horsemanship Levels 1, 2, and 3.

Horse Judging: Learn to judge horse conformation and also performance classes. Members may enroll in this project simultaneously with any Horsemanship Level.

Driving: Learn driving skills and train your horse to drive either single, teams, or large hitches. Members may enroll in Driving Level 1 in any level of Horsemanship. To advance to Level 2 and beyond the 4-H member must have completed Horsemanship Level 3.

Packing: Learn how to pack a horse, how to organize a pack trip, and how to complete a several day pack trips in the mountains. Members must have completed Horsemanship Levels 1, 2, & 3.

Working Ranch Horse: Members will learn basic horse and ranch work skills including learning how to fix fence, rope, pen cattle, brand identification, give shots, and more. The State 4-H Horse Committee recommends beginning members co-enroll in the Horsemanship project. To participate in this project in Lewis and Clark County, members DO NOT need to complete Horsemanship Levels 1-3.

Horse Showing: This project is for members who desire to learn about showing his/her horse at breed association or open shows. You will learn about grooming, equipment, show ring attire, show ring etiquette, show ring rules, traveling with your horse and more. As you complete each level you will also be sharing your knowledge with others. Members must have completed Horsemanship Levels 1, 2 and 3 before enrolling in this project. Please note that this project is NOT required for participation in any 4-H sponsored horse show.

Horse Careers: Learn about opportunities for members desiring a career in the horse industry. Members may enroll in this project simultaneously with any Horsemanship Level.

These are very brief descriptions of the projects. There are opportunities to learn about all different types of horses and horse-related activities. The skills you learn through your 4-H Horse Projects will be skills that you will use throughout your life, as a hobby or, perhaps, as a career. All of the Horse Projects are progressive in nature, and most are divided into levels. It is necessary to master the skills in the first levels in order to build a foundation so you can continue safely and successfully through each project.

As you complete each of the project workbooks and your project assessment, you may go on to the next level. Once you have completed all three basic levels, you may enroll in the other project areas of the Montana 4-H Horse Program, unless specified above. In the first three basic horsemanship levels, you will have hands-on experience in riding and caring for your horse.

It is very important to use a gentle, well-trained horse while you are mastering the basic skills. It can be a very difficult, frustrating, and potentially a dangerous experience for you and your horse if both of you are inexperienced. Before beginning each level, it is important to glance through the Horsemanship Level Book. You may want to work on several parts of a level at the same time.

Each project has guidelines to help the 4-H member through the different levels of the project as well as requirements. The supporting reading materials for each project can also be found in the Montana 4-H Clover (available at the Lewis and Clark Extension Office). These materials can be purchased directly by the 4-H member, through the Extension Office or through your 4-H club leader.

ADVANCED HORSE PROJECTS

Advanced Horse Projects are considered the following:

- Colt to Maturity
- Horse Packing
- Horse Driving (Level 2+)
- Green Horse
- Horse Independent Study
- Horse Showing

A 4-H member must be 12 years old or older, completed Horsemanship Level 3, and have demonstrated the ability to handle the project to a member of the Assessment Committee by assessing to Level 4 in Horsemanship prior to participating in the above projects.

Any breed can be shown, and will be judged by Lewis & Clark County Fair 4-H Rules and 4-H Horse Project Manual Guidelines as guided by the State 4-H Horse Committee. It is each 4-H member's responsibility to learn your County's policy. Be sure to read over your Clover Project Selection Guide, Project Manuals, and Project Level Workbooks to see what is expected of you in each Project and at each level. Horsemanship (English or Western) Levels 1-3 are designed to be the foundation for the horse program. Members are encouraged to progress at their own pace and comfort level so they can build a solid skill set prior to moving on to the advanced levels.

Montana State University Extension encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of special accommodations or have

questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Lewis & Clark County Extension Office at 406-447-8346 in advance of your participation.

PROJECT MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4-H Club meetings are an important part of the 4-H experience. Members are expected to attend their club's regular meetings; parents are encouraged to attend also.
- Clinics and educational workshops will be offered to project members, generally at no additional charge. It is recommended for each member to participate in the workshops and riding clinics. Special circumstances may arise where an additional fee is required.
- Project books are the guidelines to understanding what is expected of you at each level of your project. You will need to do additional research through books, videos or online to complete them.
- Members are strongly encouraged to attend outside clinics, shows and timed events to gain more experience and to get the most out of the program.
- Although encouraged, County Fair is not required to finish the Horse Project. However, the County Fair is required for members to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show.
- Participation in the Helmet Safety Workshop is required once as a Junior member and once as a Senior member. These workshops are scheduled prior to the 1st ride of the current 4-H year. Members are encouraged to watch the County 4-H newsletter, e-mail reminders and the Lewis and Clark County 4-H Horse Project Facebook page for updates on when these workshops will be held. Members are encouraged to make every effort to attend the scheduled workshops. The Helmet Safety workshop is offered a limited number of times in the spring. If senior members are unable to attend these scheduled workshops, the video can be viewed at the Extension Office for a fee of \$25 which goes back into the Horse Project Budget. Junior members are required to attend these workshops as scheduled – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Enrollment: Members interested in enrolling in the Lewis and Clark County Horse Project are required to enroll in the **4-H program** between October 1 and May 1 of the current 4-H year. With this enrollment, members must let the Extension Office know which horse projects they are going to participate in for the current 4-H year.

Members are encouraged to enroll in the Horse Project as early as January 1 of the current 4-H year so the superintendent can get a preliminary count of project members. This helps with solidifying the horse budgeting for the current 4-H year. Enrollments and project fee are required at the members 1st ride of the current 4-H year. If a member is bringing a new horse into the program, proof of vaccinations from the previous year must be submitted at the 1st ride. All members have until May 25th to make additions and/or edits to their initial enrollment for the current 4-H year. All project horses must be declared on the Horse Enrollment no later than May 25th of the current year. Proof of vaccination, completed enrollment information (including a photo of the member with their project horse) and project fee must be submitted to the Horse Superintendent no later than the May 25th deadline.

Ownership: All horsemanship level project animals shown by 4-H members in 4-H classes must be owned by the member or in partnership with his or her immediate family, or the member must have access to the project horse(s). All 4-H project animals must be in the continual care of the 4-H member from May 25th through the Lewis & Clark County Fair and State 4-H Horse Show (if attending).

If you are leasing a horse, the member must have access to the horse and be knowledgeable and responsible for its care. It is advised that the lessee and lessor meet with the Horse Superintendent for clarification and to devise a plan that will maximize the 4-H members experience.

If a horse must be stabled, the member needs to communicate with the project Superintendent their role in the horse's feed and care. The horse(s) must reside in Lewis & Clark County from May 25th through the Lewis & Clark County Fair and State 4-H Horse Show (if attending).

Training: You MAY NOT have outside sources train/school your horse from May 25th through the Lewis & Clark County Fair and/or State 4-H Horse Show (if attending). NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE! Violation may cause disqualification of the exhibitor. Having another train your Colt to Maturity or Green Horse project is prohibited. See Colt to Maturity section later in this manual for clarification on when a trainer is allowed.

COMMITTEES AND LEADERS

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENTS

The role of the Horse Project Superintendents is to head up the Horse Project by holding monthly meetings, represent the Horse Project by attending the Outdoor Committee meetings as well as the Council meetings, provide education to the 4-H project members by holding indoor workshops as well as riding workshops/clinics, ensure that the rules set forth by the Montana 4-H Horse Project are followed by all 4-H members participating in the Lewis and Clark County Horse Project. The Horse Project Superintendents are also responsible for organizing and delegating the responsibilities for the County Fair.

Election of the Horse Superintendent: Annually re-election/nominations for the Superintendent position are presented to the Horse Committee at the October meeting. The Extension Agent heads up the nominations and election process for the Horse Project. Procedures for nominating, electing/re-electing of the Horse Project Superintendent are as follows:

- The horse project superintendent will be voted upon by the existing project members on a yearly basis regardless of interest or lack thereof.
- Nominations for the horse superintendent position will come from the horse project members present at the September horse project meeting. The nominations need to be seconded by another project member in order for the nomination to stand. Superintendents shall not exceed two in number for each position, and must be an adult of 21 years or older.

- The nominated person must be present at the September meeting in order to accept or decline the nomination.
- Once the nominations have been presented, voting via a closed ballot will take place with majority of the vote presiding.
- Only 2 votes per club from existing project members will be allowed.
- The newly elected or re-elected superintendent's name for the horse project will be presented to the Outdoor Superintendent at the October Outdoor meeting for approval.
- Once approved by the Outdoor Superintendent, the newly elected/re-elected Horse Superintendent will preside over the October horse project meeting.

Project Jr. Superintendent(s): This is an opportunity for youth members to be a mentor and develop leadership skills specific to your project of interest. All members interested in taking on this responsibility as asked to fill out the application and submit it to the Extension Office no later than October 31 of the current 4-H year. The Junior Superintendent is an important role for the Superintendents; therefore, a Superintendent can appoint one as needed for remaining open positions after the deadline. Some of the responsibilities of a Junior Superintendents are:

- work in partnership with the project Superintendent to organize the Practice Show and Fair related activities
- assist with educational workshops which may include helping organize the workshop, promotion, conducting demonstrations, etc.
- participate in clinics, open rides, the practice show and the County Fair
- assist young or new 4-H members
- be a positive role model
- assist the Superintendent during shows or during setup
- practice good public relations and sportsmanship
- ALWAYS exercise good horsemanship and quality assurance practices for all animals
- attend and participate in Indoor or Outdoor Committee meetings when available
- complete record and project books by the end of the 4-H year and assist other members with them as needed

Criteria to Apply:

- Youth members wishing to take on this responsibility must be 13-18 years old
- Currently enrolled as a 4-H member in the Horse Project
- Be able to commit to the responsibilities as outlined above

The junior Superintendent application can be found at the end of this manual or by following this link - http://www.lccountymt.gov/fileadmin/user_upload/Education/4-H/Pages/Forms/Misc/Junior_Superintendent_Application-fillable.pdf.

HORSE COMMITTEE

The 4-H Horse Committee is made up of youth, adults (parents and leaders) with the development of youth and the horse project as their main goals. As a committee, they develop policies, rules and guidelines that govern the Lewis and Clark County 4-H Horse project and

activities. Committee recommendations and efforts are monitored and strengthened through the support of the 4-H Leaders Council and Overall Outdoor Superintendent.

PURPOSE OF THE HORSE COMMITTEE

- To establish Lewis & Clark County Horse Project Policies
- To plan and implement Training Clinics and Workshops
- To plan and implement level assessments and keep record of assessment results
- To plan and implement the 4-H Horse Show during the Lewis & Clark County Fair

- The Executive Horse Committee serves as arbitrators in the case of a dispute involving a member, leader and/or parent

HORSE COMMITTEE GOALS

To provide an opportunity for the 4-H member(s) to:

- Learn to handle, care for, ride, and/or drive the mature horse
- Develop leadership, responsibility, initiative, self-reliance, and good sportsmanship
- Learn the principles of equine nutrition and what constitutes a balanced ration to feed your animals
- Develop knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injuries to self, others, and their animals
- Learn about proper equipment and its care
- Learn the anatomy of the horse
- Nurture greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them
- Learn to accept the results of your work and how to use these in planning and managing your next goal
- Stimulate interest and provide an opportunity for members in the horse or horse related industries
- Develop patience, cooperation, decision-making skills, and communication skills through participation in demonstrations, tours, judging, and/or exhibits
- Explore career opportunities
- Develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes for life-long use
- Share knowledge gained with others
- Promote excellence in horsemanship through clinics and training
- Prepare members for State Horse Show
- Provide 4-H members with the opportunity to gain skills in horsemanship, patience, and understanding in handling horses
- Promote the 4-H program
- Promote the goals of the 4-H Horse Project
- Have Fun!

HORSE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Purpose: To determine the appropriate riding level for each 4-H member based on the criteria outlined within the project workbooks. The assessments are based on the riders skill level not the horse's skill level.

Volunteer Duties: Horse Assessment volunteers will be available to 4-H Horse members who are ready to move up in Horse Project Levels. Volunteers will:

- Check member project books to see that written materials have been completed.
- Using checklist in project books, have member demonstrate or describe (whichever is appropriate) each element required for completion of given level.
- Check off and/or sign member's project book as each element is successfully shown to be mastered.
- Turn over information on which members have passed which assessment to the Horse Superintendent and to the Extension Office.
- Periodically attend workshops and other activities to keep current on criteria for various projects and levels.

ASSESSMENTS: MOVING UP A LEVEL

- If the member received a Purple ribbon in his/her Western or English Level class at the County Show, he/she must progress to the next Level for the next 4-H year. Blue ribbon winners are encouraged, but not required to move up. There is a three year limit for Horsemanship Level 1 and 2.
- New members to the Horse project are required to go through the assessment process in order to determine their Horsemanship Level.
- Assessments may also be required under circumstances which warrant a special assessment. This is at the discretion of the Assessment Committee.
- Each member will need to be assessed by the Assessment Committee to verify that they can indeed perform the skills required in one Level before they move up to the next.
- Assessments consists of the Assessing Committee asking the member to complete the mounted and/or dismounted skills defined in the Project Level Books, answering questions covering the appropriate Project Level Book material, and a review of the member's completed Project Level Book.
- Members will repeat a Level if not completed to the Assessment Committee's satisfaction.
- Members will exhibit at the County Fair in the most advanced level for which they have been assessed. Assessment requirements are in your Project Level Workbooks, so you should know in advanced what is expected of you.
- Members must bring their project book to the assessments and fair.
- Members must be assessed on the horse(s) they bring to the fair.
- All assessments will be complete by June 1
- Assessments typically take place during a clinic setting. If members are not able to attend the scheduled assessment time, they can schedule a private meeting at the convenience of the Assessment Team. There may be an additional fee associated with the private assessment which is the responsibility of the 4-H member.

HORSE SHOW JUDGES:

- 4-H horse judges are selected by the Extension Agent from recommendations submitted by the Horse Project Committee members. It is the Extension Agents responsibility to ensure a contract is signed and the Judge is knowledgeable of the Lewis and Clark Horse Project requirements, 4-H Danish Judging System and guidelines as set forth by this policy manual and project materials. At this time, the Extension Agent is the only one who will know who the Judge is prior to the Lewis & Clark County Fair.
- The Superintendent must meet with the judge(s) prior to the event and go over the classes and guidelines.
- The show judge should sign all class sheets after judging a class. The judging sheets will be posted for member review after each class.
- Judges must select a Champion, Reserve Champion and two alternates in Junior and Senior Showmanship classes to participate in the Round Robin Showmanship competition.
- The Sr. and Jr. showmanship horse/member team must accept participating in the Round Robin event within 2 hours of being notified. An alternate in each division will also be selected.
- Alternates must be given at least a 2-day notice of requested participation. This notification is the responsibility of the Outdoor Round Robin Committee and Horse Superintendent.
- The Horse Superintendent is responsible for making sure the judges are paid the day of judging, if at all possible, or make prior arrangements with the Extension Agent.
- Judges are responsible for the correctness of each course after it has been set, and should call the show committee's attention to any errors that would result in unfair or inappropriate pattern courses.

CODE OF CONDUCT

You are representing your county. What others think of you is often based upon first impressions of behavior and dress. It is not possible to anticipate every potential situation. In the absence of a rule regarding a specific activity or situation, common sense and ethics should prevail.

Every 4-H member is expected to observe the following rules:

- Be pleasant and cooperative.
- Respect supervision at all times. You are the responsibility to adult leaders while participating in all 4-H activities.
- Fireworks, illegal drugs, all tobacco products, and intoxicants of any kind, as well as weapons (as defined in Lewis & Clark County Ordinance) are prohibited.
- Discrimination, harassment, and/or physical force of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Respect for facilities, natural surroundings and the property of others is compulsory, (i.e. projects, animals and personal possessions included.)
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Be punctual for all events and classes.

Violation of any of these rules may be grounds for the dismissal of individuals or groups. Infractions will be dealt with through the 4-H Executive Horse Committee.

CODE OF ETHICS

- If at any 4-H Horse event, clinic or show, if the Judge, Clinician or a member of the Horse Committee determines that a 4-H member is not in control of his/her horse and is an endangerment to himself/herself or others, committee members will assist that 4-H member in gaining control of his/her horse. If this is not possible at that time, the 4-H member will be excused from the arena or working areas. The Horse Committee will follow the safety guidelines set forth in the Montana 4-H Horse Safety Guidelines.
- The basis of any horse safety program is a common sense approach to horse handling. Unsafe conduct in any 4-H class, clinic or event, will be reason for dismissal from that event.
- No abuse or unnecessary spurring, jerking or roughness will be allowed.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language or actions, and/or abuse to an animal on the part of any 4-H exhibitor, family member, or leader will result in forfeiture of any award received and/or elimination from further competition of the 4-H member or those who engaged in conduct.
- Project members are responsible for the cleanup of any manure left by their horse(s), both inside the facility and at their trailer, or while at a visiting barn or stable for clinic purposes.
- No riding double at any 4-H sponsored event.
- Shoes/boots without heels or boots that fit snugly in the stirrups are not allowed under any circumstance. If at any 4-H Horse event, clinic or show, the Judge, Clinician or a member of the Horse Committee determines that a 4-H member's equipment or clothing is unsafe and may be an endangerment to himself/herself or others, the 4-H member will be excused from the arena or working areas. The committee members may assist the 4-H member in securing proper equipment or clothing; if this is not possible at that time the 4-H member must participate dismounted. The Horse Committee will follow the safety guidelines set forth in the Montana 4-H Horse Safety Guidelines.

VACCINATIONS AND DRUG USE FOR PROJECT ANIMALS (Same information just separated into its own section)

- The use of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) of a horse is strictly prohibited.
- Vaccinations must be administered at least two (2) weeks prior to any contact with other project horses.
- Required vaccinations are:
 - **West Nile Virus**
 - **5-Way vaccination** [(EEE) Eastern Equine Infectious Encephalomyelitis, (WEE) Western Equine Infectious Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, Influenza, and Rhino pneumonitis]

- Strangles and Rabies are recommended. If you are unable to vaccinate your horse with the required vaccinations, a veterinarian letter must be submitted.

DISPUTES AND/OR GRIEVANCES:

Approaching the County Fair Judge is prohibited. This is the responsibility of the Project Superintendent. If there is a question or discrepancy, members along with adult representation need to address the Project Superintendent who in turn will approach the Ring Steward and Judge at an appropriate time. If a member would like to file a grievance or a request for special consideration, the following procedure will be used. A fee of \$25 will accompany any and all requests/grievances.

- The person with the grievance or request for special considerations must submit his/her grievance or request in writing to the Executive Horse Committee asking for a judgment or special consideration.
- A copy must also be presented to the Lewis & Clark County Extension Office.
- The Executive Horse Committee will review the request or grievance and respond within five (5) days in writing which will be submitted to the Lewis & Clark County Extension Office.
- If the member, parent, and/or leader wishes to appeal the Executive Horse Committee's decision, the appeal must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee of the Leader's Council.
- The Executive Committee of the Leader's Council will review the grievance or request and the previous decision of the Executive Horse Committee. The Leader's Council will proceed as written in their grievance policy.
- If further appeal is necessary, a grievance or request may be filed with the Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development Office under whose advisement a **final** judgment will be rendered as soon as possible.
- Rules covering the Montana State/Lewis & Clark County 4-H Horse Program will be enforced by the Lewis & Clark County 4-H Horse Committee.

TACK AND EQUIPMENT

- Required, ASTM/SEI Helmets during horse shows and clinics.
- The Assumption of Risk (found at the end of this book) must be signed by member and parent or guardian prior to any clinics or fair.
- Appropriate riding boots must be worn when riding.
- All horses must be rode with bridles. **No Halters.**
- Stirrup irons must be used on English Saddles.
- Spurs are not allowed at any time when riding Bareback.
- Tie-downs are not permitted. No wire curb straps and no chin strap narrower than one-half inch will be permitted. Flat braided chain curb straps one half inch or wider will be permitted. A white ribbon will be automatic for unacceptable horse equipment.
- Western Horses 5 years and older must be ridden with a curb bit which meets the requirements of the bit policy. See the State Bit Policy for additional clarification.
- Tack checks should be done prior to entering the show arena.

- A snaffle bit or rawhide noseband hackamore (bosal) will be acceptable for horses through four (4) years of age.
- Horses in English classes may show in Pelham, Weymouth, Kimberwick or snaffle bits.
- Snaffle bits are acceptable during Barrel Racing and Pole Bending classes for all ages of horses.

DRESS CODE

This dress code is for the Lewis and Clark County Horse Fair and Practice Show ONLY.

- **Riding Helmets** – All participants must wear an approved ASTM/SEI certified riding helmet while mounted or driving carts.
- **Showmanship (halter) Classes** - Long-sleeved, modest western type shirt can have buttons, zipper, and/or snaps; Western type pants or jeans; Western Hat (felt or straw) or an approved riding helmet; Western style boots. Sweaters, vests, and jackets are allowed only during inclement weather at judge's discretion. Gloves are optional. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid. Boys are required to wear a tie of any style. If an exhibitor wishes to compete in Showmanship classes while wearing English attire, a solid, all white, long-sleeved English blouse must be worn without a jacket.
- **Western Horsemanship and Western Classes, including Barrel Racing and Pole Bending** - Long-sleeved, modest western type shirt – can have buttons, zipper, and/or snaps; Western type pants or jeans; approved riding helmet; Western style boots. Chaps, gloves, and spurs are optional. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.
- **Ranch Horse** – Long sleeved, modest western type shirt with a collar – shirts can have buttons and/or snaps. Western jeans; approved riding helmet; western style boots. Neck rags, vests, chaps, chinks, slicker or other appropriate accessories are acceptable but not required. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.
- **Bareback** – Long-sleeved, modest western type shirt – can have buttons, zipper, and/or snaps; Western type pants or jeans; approved riding helmet; Western style boots. Chaps, spurs, crops, and bats are prohibited. If an exhibitor wishes to compete in this classes while wearing English attire, a solid, all white, long-sleeved English blouse must be worn without a jacket. If an exhibitor chooses to compete in English attire, the member will be required to post the trot on the correct diagonal. English attired members shall not be given preference over western attired members. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.
- **English Classes (mounted)**
 - **Hunt Type:** Hunt coat (red, pink or scarlet coats prohibited unless exhibitor has earned them as a member of a recognized hunt); hunt type blouse; breeches; hunt boots; hard hat with harness chin strap; stocks; chokers or ties required. Gloves and English spurs are optional.
 - **Saddle Type:** Saddle seat suit (suit and accessories must be of conservative colors); blouse, men's tie, vest, jodhpur boots, and riding helmet are required.

Gloves and English spurs are optional. Hair shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.

- **Round Robin** – Members must wear a plain, long-sleeved white shirt or blouse, dark pants, black tie and western boots. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid.

Shoes without heels or boots that fit snugly in the stirrups are not allowed under any circumstance. Unsafe equipment or clothing will be reason to keep you on the ground.

FAIR EXPECTATIONS

GENERAL LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY HORSE FAIR RULES

- All members must sign up for the fair and show in their assessed level. Members must have completed Level 1-3 to compete in Green Horse, Colt to Maturity, Pack Horse, and Driving Level 2 and up.
- Exhibitors may only enter 1 horse per lot number.
- Colt to Maturity and Green Horse horses may not be cross-entered in the Horsemanship Level Classes. The exception to this rule is if the member has been assessed out of Level 6; a colt in the fifth year of colt to maturity may cross enter to Horsemanship Level 7.
- To be in bareback, horse must be 3 years old or older.
- To compete in hunt seat equitation over fences, barrels and poles classes, horses must be 4 years old or older.
- Members entering the arena without wearing their exhibitor number or attaching it to their horse or cart will be penalized by receiving a white ribbon.
- No stallions allowed in any class including yearlings in the Colt to Maturity project.
- All classes will follow the rules and guidelines in the Horsemanship Levels books. A criteria list for each horsemanship level is in the Horsemanship Levels books. The Colt to Maturity and Green Horse classes will follow the guidelines and rules in the Colt to Maturity and Green Horse project books respectively. However, it should be noted that the project book states that County Fair rules on exhibiting will be followed.
- Project animals may not be trained/schooled by outside sources after May 25th unless the member is involved in the training/schooling.
- All animals must be enrolled in the Lewis & Clark Horse Project by May 25th.
- Showmanship is optional for all horse project members. All members competing in showmanship are eligible for 4-H Round Robin.
- Patterns will be posted the day of the show at least one hour prior to class time.
- Yearling at halter is open to two year olds not mature enough to be ridden. Any two year old in this class may not receive Grand or Reserve Champion.
- All obstacles will be "three (3) refusals" then go on to the next obstacle.
- Un-sportsman-like conduct, abusive language or actions and/or abuse of any animal on the part of any 4-H exhibitor, parent, family member or leaders may in penalization by forfeiture of any award received and/or elimination from further competition of the 4-H member or those culpable. Refer to Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.

- Members MAY NOT ADD CLASSES the day of the show.
- Jumping Classes: Members must have completed level 2 to compete in Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences. The horse must be 4 years old or older. Members who show in the under 2' classes cannot show in the above 2' classes.
- Members in walk/trot classes cannot compete in cantering and loping classes.
- A show schedule will be posted and handed out to the members; Make sure to study it and be ready for your class. Gates will be held for tack changes only.
- No person other than the exhibitors and show officials will be allowed in the ring while the show is in progress.
- Horses must enter the arena in a controlled forward motion.
- Horses may be checked at the County Fair by a veterinarian. Any horse not in good health or condition (including lameness) will be sent home. Typically a local veterinarian is asked to volunteer their time as a donation to the Horse project and serve as an on-call veterinarian. In the event that veterinary services are required, any fees associated with the services will be the responsibility of the project member/ horse owner.
- A horse enrolled as a 4-H Horsemanship Level project may be shown by more than one member of the immediate family in any one year at the County and State Horse Show, provided that neither the horse nor the member competes against himself or herself. If there is a conflict in schedules for any reason, the exhibitor will have to determine which class to participate and scratch the other.
 - E.G. – Horse competing against itself: Rider A and Rider B ride the same horse for Trail. Both Rider A and B are in the same age group and same level of horsemanship. Rider A and B will need to decide who is going to ride the horse during the trail class because if they both ride the same horse, the horse will be competing against itself.
 - E.G. – Rider competing against himself/herself: Rider A has a 2 year old in the Colt to Maturity Project and a 3 year old in the Green Horse Project. The member wishes to enter both horses in Trail. As the classes are currently listed (as of 2015), Trail for Colt to Maturity Level 2 and Green Horse Level 3 are the same class. Therefore, the member will need to decide which horse they want to use for the trail class. They are not allowed to use both horses as the member would be competing against her/himself.
- Members may ride only one English Level and one Western Level. If riding both Western and English, levels ridden can be the same level or only one level above or below.
- The Horse Committee/Judge has the option of combining or deleting classes.
- The Lewis & Clark County Fair will be the qualifying show for the State 4-H Horse Show.
- Members enrolled in the Horsemanship projects may have an interview in addition to the riding portion of their project. Questions will come from your project book

JUDGING CRITERIA & PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Criteria:

- Horsemanship 40%
- Performance of pattern 40%
- Appearance 10%
- Project knowledge 10%

Tack/Equipment: No Snaffle bits on horses five years old and older. No roping reins.

Dress: See prior section of this Manual for approved attire for Western Horsemanship.

General Requirements: A horse entered in Western Horsemanship can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross-entered in colt to maturity or green horse classes. The exception to this rule is if the member has been assessed out of Level 6; a colt in the fifth year of colt to maturity may cross enter to Horsemanship Level 7.

Horses must be shown in a stock saddle. Tie-downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores of any type are prohibited unless otherwise indicated in the class description. Split or Romel reins are permissible, but roping reins are not allowed. Splint boots, bell boots and skid boots are optional.

Spurs are optional except in bareback where they are not permitted. Spurs should not be used forward of the cinch. In all classes the judge has the option of requesting one or all contestants to perform individually.

Horses under four (4) years of age in Horsemanship and Trail Classes may be ridden with curb bits, snaffles, or bosals. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden two handed except opening and closing gates. It is mandatory that horses five (5) and over be ridden in a curb bit. Curb or shank bits must be ridden one handed. Flat chain curb straps or flat leather curb straps ½ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

Basic Position: Rider should be seated so that from the side view a vertical line could be drawn from the center of his/her head down through his/her shoulder and seat to the back of his/her heel. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot. Arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. When a curb bit is used only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand is to be around reins, one finger between the reins is permitted and split reins fall on the near

side.

When using romel reins, no finger between the reins is allowed. The hand holding the romel reins should be above the horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn is penalized. The end of the romel reins should be held in the opposite hand at least 16 inches away from the reining hand that hand can be placed on the leg, or the arm held in a straight position.

Position in Motion: Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, the rider should be close to the saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of subtle aids and the shifting of rider's weight is not desirable.

Mounting and Dismounting:

- Mounting: Rider begins with proper mounting on the horse' left side. With enough tension to feel the bit and hold the horse steady, hold the reins in your left hand and place this hand on the neck in front of the withers. Grasp the ridge of the neck or a lock of mane. Twist the stirrup with your right hand and place your left foot in the stirrup with the ball of your foot resting securely on the tread. Push with your right leg and spring up and over the seat of the saddle. Do not pull yourself up. Shift your weight to your left leg to maintain balance, steady yourself with your hands. Settle easily into the saddle. Your right foot should slip into the stirrup on the right side of the horse. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.
- Dismount: Rider may step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

Western Horsemanship Level 1 – 3: Refer to the Current Level 1-3 Horsemanship Book for required abilities for each level. These are listed at the end of each Level chapter

Western Horsemanship Level 4 – 7: Refer to the Current Level 4-3 Horsemanship Book for required abilities for each level. These are listed at the end of each Level chapter

Western Horsemanship Level 7

Level 7 of Horsemanship is unlike any of the previous levels. In this level, you will be able to design, implement, evaluate, and teach an advanced project of your own choosing along with designing and performing a pattern. Work at this level requires a measure of self-discipline, self-motivation and self-initiative. **Refer to the Current Level 4-7 Horsemanship Book for required abilities.**

ENGLISH HORSEMANSHIP

A horse entered in English Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross-entered in English Colt to Maturity or Green Horse classes. The exception to this rule is if the member has been assessed out of Level 6; a colt in the fifth year of colt to maturity may cross enter to Horsemanship Level 7. Entries must be shown hunt or saddle seat. Spurs and crops are optional.

When riding hunt seat only regulation snaffles, Pelham's, Kimberwicks and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are allowed. In saddle seat classes, entries must be shown in snaffles, Pelham's or full bridles (curb and snaffle). Bit converters are allowed. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements.

Criteria:

- Horsemanship 40%
- Performance of pattern 40%
- Appearance 10%
- Project knowledge 10%

Hunter Type Position: Rider should have workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault

Hands: Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and bite of the reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

Basic Position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation: ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

Position in Motion: At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple degrees in front of the vertical: rising trot, inclined forward; galloping and jumping, same inclination as the rising trot.

Mounting and dismounting: To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Saddle Seat Position: Judges should note that the required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. When riding saddle seat in the Horsemanship classes, riders should convey impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he/she should show himself/herself to the best advantage. Breaking a pattern is considered a major fault.

Hands: Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the hands are held

above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional; however, both hands must be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bite of the reins should fall on the right side.

Basic Position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. To obtain the proper position, rider should place himself/herself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without the use of irons. While at this position adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural.

Position in Motion:

- **Walk:** slight motion in saddle
- **Trot:** slight elevation in saddle rising, hips under body not mechanical up and down or swinging forward and backward.
- **Canter:** close seat, going with the horse

Mounting and Dismounting: To mount, take up reins if left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

English Horsemanship Level 1 – 3: Refer to the Current Level 1-3 Horsemanship Book for required abilities for each level. These are listed at the end of each Level chapter

English Horsemanship Level 4 – 7: Refer to the Current Level 4-7 Horsemanship Book for required abilities for each level. These are listed at the end of each Level chapter

English Horsemanship Level 7

Level 7 of Horsemanship is unlike any of the previous levels. In this level, you will be able to design, implement, evaluate, and teach an advanced project of your own choosing along with designing and performing a pattern. Work at this level requires a measure of self-discipline, self-motivation and self-initiative. **Refer to the Current Level 4-7 Horsemanship Book for required abilities.**

COLT TO MATURITY PROJECT

This project is for those who own or have available a colt or filly to care for and train. This is a five year progressive project beginning with a yearling. The project is designed to help you select a foal and train it to maturity. See Project Books for complete details.

Colt to Maturity Rules and Policies – *Moved from page 12 of the current policy manual to here.*

- A member must be 12 years old to participate in either the Green Horse or Colt to Maturity projects.
- Member must have completed Horsemanship Level 3.

- Colt to Maturity and Green Horse Projects cannot cross-enter in English or Western Horsemanship Level 1-7 projects/classes. The exception to this rule is that a Colt to Maturity in its 5th year may enter in English or Western Level 7.
- All horses in the Colt to Maturity project must be owned by the member or the member's immediate family, or the member must have access to the horse. The horse must be in the continual care of the member from May 25th of the yearling year through the completion of the five year project and in Lewis & Clark County.
- The Colt to Maturity and Green Horse project horses may not be trained by a professional trainer. If a 4-H member encounters serious problems with their colt to Maturity or Green Horse project horse, they may seek help from a professional or someone more experienced than themselves as long as the member is present to see how the problem is corrected and consequently learn from the help sessions. The intent is to keep the project safe for the member and to have some logical progression to the project. The emphasis needs to be on safety and learning.
- Age classifications for project horses will be determined as of January 1 of the current 4-H year

Equipment: Skid, splint and bell boot are optional for these classes. Use of a running martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-olds when using a ring snaffle only. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference Western Horsemanship Classes.

Criteria: *(see State Horse Show Policy for additional criteria noted at the walk, jog, lope, extended jog, back)*

- Performance and manners of horse 55%
- Horsemanship 20%
- Appearance 10%
- Project knowledge 15%

Minor faults

- Over or under flexion, sour ears, tail switching, inconsistent speed, out of balance, poll too high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

Major faults

- Throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping of the bit, gaping, and evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, and breaking pattern.
- Not performing a two beat jog, failing to jog both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking

Colt to Maturity Horsemanship: Refer to the current Colt to Maturity Horsemanship Book for required abilities for each level.

GREEN HORSE PROJECT

The purpose of the Green Horse Project is to offer the 4-H members an opportunity to train a young horse that does not fit into the yearling to five year-old project or the horsemanship project. Members may take as their project horse, one of riding age, that is unbroken or green broke (started but not finished) which they wish to train.

A rule of thumb that may be helpful in deciding on the placing a horse in this project is a Level 1 would be equivalent in skills to a horse with 30 days training, Level 2 a horse with 60 days, and Level 3 a horse with 90 days. This helps some people think in terms of “how broke” the horse is when the member takes it over. - *from the conference call re-cap with Sharla Sackman.*

To participate in this project, you must be 12 years old or older at the beginning of the current 4-H year, have completed Horsemanship Introduction and Levels 1-3, and have demonstrated the ability to handle the project to the county horse committee by assessing to Horsemanship Level 4. See Project Books for complete details.

Green Horse Horsemanship: Refer to the Current Green Horse Project Book for required abilities for each level.

DRIVING PROJECT

The purpose of the Driving Project is to offer 4-H members an opportunity to learn basic horse driving skills, safety and how to teach a horse to drive in a single or multiple hitch.

To participate in Level 2 or higher in this project, you must have completed Horsemanship 1-3 **Refer to the current Driving Project book for required abilities for each level.**

HORSE JUDGING PROJECT

This project teaches you to select and evaluate horses, give oral reasons and place classes of conformation horses and performance horses. This project is designed for the 4-H member to take as many years as needed to work towards acquiring the characteristics of a successful judge. **Refer to the current Project Book for required abilities.**

HORSE SHOWING PROJECT

This project teaches you to select, train and maintain your horses for showing. This project will help you become an adept and knowledgeable horseman or horsewoman. It will also help you learn to plan and conduct shows and clinics. This project is conducted as an independent study with involvement of the member, Project Superintendent and Extension Agent. The Project Leader or Agent can assist the member in setting goals for each project year. Members must

be a Horsemanship Level 4 or higher in order to participate in this project. **Refer to the current Project Book for requirements at each level.**

RANCH HORSE PROJECT

This project prepares you and your horse for general ranch work including roping, cutting, and penning. You will learn the heritage and traditions of the American cowboy.

Ranch Horse guidelines will match the state guidelines. Level 1 horsemanship rider may enroll in ranch horse project but must also be enrolled in a horsemanship level. Experienced youth may assess into higher levels quickly by passing the required assessments. Since this is a new curriculum (as of 2013), with new skills required, we feel it is most prudent that each member begin at Level 1.

It is very important when participating in working ranch horse activities that riders be aware of their equipment and its condition. Worn latigos, frayed cinches, tattered straps, and other unkempt saddle or bridle parts can cause serious accidents if they were to break or come loose. Working Ranch Horse will follow the Montana State Horse Project Bit Rules. Romel, roping and split reins are legal. Saddles must be of western type and have a horn. Saddle horns cannot have rubber, cotton rope, or any man-made substance that will cause a rope to bite hard to the horn. Mule hide, latigo, elk hide or basic leather are some suggestions for horn coverings.

Ranch Horse Level 1 – 4: Refer to the Working Ranch Horse Project Book for required abilities at each level.

HORSELESS HORSE PROJECT

If you currently do not have a horse, but think that one day you will and want to participate in horse related project, this is the project for you. As a Horseless Horse member, you can participate in Horse Judging and Horse Careers without owning a horse. Horseless Horse members are also encouraged to participate in all indoor workshops offered by the Horse Project. For project Books available and possible availability of finding a horse please contact the Extension Office or Horse Superintendent.

PACKING PROJECT

The 4-H Horse Packing project develops knowledge and skill in the art and science of using horses to transport materials. This project also provides opportunities for enjoying nature in a way that is otherwise difficult to achieve. See Project Books for complete details.

To participate in this project, you must have completed Horsemanship 1-3.

Pack Horse Level 1 – 5: Refer to the Current Green Horse Project Book for required abilities for each level.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study is for any youth who are looking for new challenges and opportunities in 4-H. This allows a member to take the personal initiative to explore topics that have not been investigated while remaining enrolled in a 4-H project. Members enrolling in the independent study phase of any project should develop a detailed learning plan for their work. They should be encouraged to identify an area of interest in the project area, set goals and locate resources (people, publications and materials) helpful in carrying out a project plan. They then determine specific experiences needed to accomplish project goals, establish a realistic timeline for completion, carry out the project learning plan, share experiences with others, evaluate the outcomes and determine what could be improved.

Project Requirements for Independent Study: The individualized learning plan should be approved by a parent, 4-H adult volunteer leader or 4-H agent. For assistance in developing a personal learning contract, look at the self-determined project materials or other goal-setting materials. While independent study provides flexibility and creativity, it also requires serious planning, implementation and evaluation. An outline of your Independent Study project must be submitted to the Horse Committee and the County 4-H Extension Agent by January 15 of the current 4-H year.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS & JUDGING CRITERIA

SHOWMANSHIP CLASS

Criteria:

- Showing the horse 50%
- Appearance of the horse 40%
- The exhibitor 10%

Exhibitor: The member must be neat and clean in appearance and appropriately dressed in western attire or English attire. See previous section on Dress Code for specific approved dress.

Equipment: All horses will be shown with a clean, properly adjusted web or leather halter suitable for breed standards. A fancy halter shall not be given preference over a good working halter. Lead shanks with chains may be used but the use of the chain over the nose or under the jaw or in any way having contact with the horse will be prohibited. Whips or bridles will not be allowed.

Appearance of the horse: The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust dandruff, manure stains, and bots (fly eggs). The hair coat should have a natural luster so excessive oils contracted from spray cans and other market products will be counted down. Trimming should accentuate quality about the heads and legs. Breed standards for exhibition

should be followed. The hooves should be clean and properly trimmed or shod. No preference will be shown for hoof dressing or coloring. Tack should be neat, clean, and properly dressed and adjusted. Tack should complement, not detract from the horse.

Showing the horse: All exhibitors will be asked to perform a pattern. The exhibitor may be asked to perform the following maneuvers in the pattern: Walk, trot, back, hindquarter pivots, set up squarely, move forward and backward freely. The showman may be asked to pick up any or all feet of his/her horse and know the parts of their horse. The exhibitor should perform the pattern briskly and in a businesslike manner.

The exhibitor must never obstruct the judge's view of the horse. This means the exhibitor must position his body either to the front left or front right of the horse, using the quarter system. The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand about 4 to 8 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank, coiled in a figure 8 with the left hand. The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor at the near side of the horse's neck and in front of the shoulder. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor nor should he/she be dragged along behind. Changing hands to back the horse is optional. At the judge's discretion, the finalists in each class may be called back into the arena for further work. Members are asked to allow reasonable space (minimum of 6') between horses as to not interfere with another member and their horse.

COLT TO MATURITY PROJECT – YEARLING AT HALTER

Criteria:

- Performance and Manners 50%
- Confirmation and condition 25%
- Appearance of Horse and Exhibitor 15%
- Project Knowledge 10%

The Colt to maturity yearling project requirements to be met will consist of the following:

- Exhibitor must be a minimum of 12 years old during the project year and must have completed Horsemanship Level 3
- Exhibitor may only show one horse per level
- Refer to manual "Training Horses- yearling to five year olds"

Intent: To show handling, willingness, control, and training demonstrated in the showmanship pattern.

Bareback Equitation Class:

Lewis and Clark County offers bareback equitation classes for all members in the horse project. Members that are a Level 1 will only be asked to walk, trot, and back their horses at the discretion of the judge. Members 8+ years old and a level 2 or higher will be asked to walk,

trot, lope, and back their horses at the discretion of the Judge. Riders will be judged on seat, feet, hands, and the ability to control horse.

Equipment: See prior section of this Manual for approved Bareback class equipment

Dress: See prior section of this Manual for approved Bareback class attire.

Barrel Racing/Pole Bending Classes

Lewis and Clark County offers Barrels and Poles to all members enrolled in the Horse Program. The horse used for this class must be enrolled as a project horse. No two (2) contestants may ride the same horse in the same class and no contestant may compete with more than one (1) horse in the same event. Games offered are clover leaf barrel racing and pole bending.

General Rules:

- The announcer will call each contestant to the arena. If the contestant fails to enter the arena by the third call, the contestant forfeits his/her run.
- **RIDERS MAY START THEIR RUN AFTER THEY ARE INSIDE THE ARENA AND THE GATE IS CLOSED. (NO RUN INS). MEMBERS MUST BE STOPPED AND UNDER CONTROL BEFORE EXITING.** If horses are considered unsafe by the show committee or judge they may be asked to stop and exit the arena immediately.
- After entering the ring, the contestant has a reasonable amount of time (to be determined by judge or time officials) to begin run.
- All events are timed.
- Time starts when the horse's nose crosses the start line and ends when the nose crosses back. Judge's or time officials' decision is final.
- No rider may be tied to the horse or saddle in any way.
- No wires or chains are allowed.
- Horse's mouth may not be tied shut in anyway.
- Colt to maturity horses 4 and under cannot be used for barrel racing and pole bending classes.
- A flagger must be at starting line. Electric timer and/or at least two stop watches will be used for timing the event. The official time will be the time indicated by the electric timer or average of watches used by official timers. In case of electronic timer malfunction and/or watch malfunction, a rerun will be awarded. All times will start when the horse's nose passes the starting line.
- A specific "speed pattern" judge will be designated to judge these classes. The judge will be supplied with a red flag to signify a penalty.

Rider Disqualification:

- Riders will be disqualified if they leave the course, break pattern, runouts and refusals, upsetting starting poles or cones, or taking more than 30 seconds to cross the starting line after being given the "ready light."
- Loose horse or grounded rider (unmounted and touching the ground).

- Steadying of the properties will also result in a disqualification

Tack/Equipment:

- Western saddle with horn.
- Bits will follow the Montana State Bit Guide
- Horses of any age may be ridden with a snaffle bit. Roping reins are allowed. Western saddles must be used.

Optional Equipment:

- Martingales, tie downs, splint boots, bell and skid boots, over and under or bat.

Rider attire:

- Long-sleeved, modest western type shirt – can have buttons, zipper, and/or snaps; Western type pants or jeans; Approved riding helmet; Western style boots.

Optional attire:

- Shin guards; Gloves; Chaps and/or Spurs

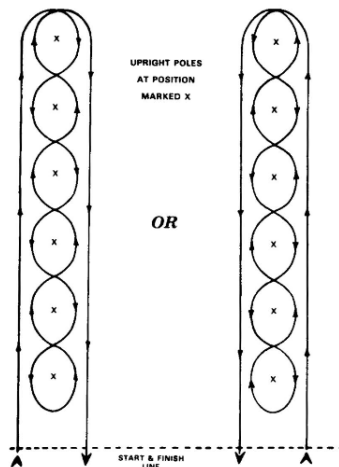
If participants have questions on legal equipment, please contact show committee. Show committee and judge have the discretion to decide if equipment is unsafe or unnecessary.

Pole Bending (Please see diagram below for pattern clarification)

- 6 poles shall be placed 21' or 18' apart in a straight line and 15' from the timer line (the distance between poles will vary between these 2 increments based on the arena size but will be consistent throughout the pattern setup. The timer line to the first pole may also vary do the size of the arena, but will be no less than 15' from the timer line to first pole). Contestant shall race to far end pole and make either a left or right turn, weave poles down, making an opposite turn at the end pole and weave poles back, turning end pole the **SAME** direction as the first turn and race straight back to the timer line. Knocking over a pole, where the top of the pole touches the arena dirt, shall incur a 5 second penalty. Contestant crossing over the timer line before completing the pattern or incorrectly completing the pattern shall incur a time of 5 minutes flat. (*This flat time might vary depending on the skill level of the riders in the class*)

Members in Horsemanship Level 1 - if a member breaks into a higher gait than a trot for more than three stride, the member shall incur a time of 5 minutes flat. (*This flat time might vary depending on the skill level of the riders in the class*)

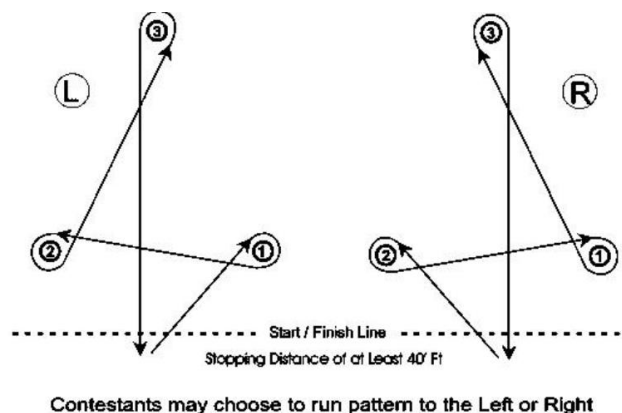
POLE BENDING PATTERN



Barrel Racing (Please see diagram below for pattern clarification)

- Three 50 gallon barrels shall be placed with the bottom up, in a triangle/cloverleaf pattern. The measurements of the pattern will vary to each arenas dimension. Barrels shall be set at a minimum of 5 feet off of the arena rail/fence. Contestant may start the pattern by turning the left or right barrel first. If starting with the right barrel first - contestant shall make a 360 degree turn around the right barrel, then a 360 degree left turn around second and third barrel. If contest starts the pattern to the left barrel first - contestant shall make a 360 degree left turn around the first barrel, 360 degree right turn around the second & third barrel. After completing the turn around the third barrel, contestant shall race back across the timer line. Knocking over a barrel, shall incur a 5 second penalty added to the contestant's time. Contestant's crossing over the timer line before completing the pattern or incorrectly completing the pattern shall incur a time of 5 minutes flat. *(This flat time might vary depending on the skill level of the riders in the class)*

Members in Horsemanship Level 1 - if a member breaks into a higher gait than a trot for more than three stride, the member shall incur a time of 5 minutes flat. *(This flat time might vary depending on the skill level of the riders in the class)*



TRAIL CLASS

- The horse used for this class must be enrolled as a project horse.
- This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in maneuvering the obstacles.
- The horse should work with a reasonable loose rein without undue restraint.
- Six or more obstacles will be used, of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list.
- The distance between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
- English or Western tack and attire may be used.

Mandatory Obstacles:

- **Opening, passing through and closing gate.** A rider losing control of gate will be penalized. A gate will be used which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
- **Ride over at least four logs or poles.** These can be a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot-overs and lope-overs cannot be elevated in novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot-overs and lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof:
 - The spacing for walkovers should be 20" to 24" (40cm to 60cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22" (55cm) apart.
 - The spacing for trot overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90cm-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
 - The spacing for lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1 meters) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
- **Back obstacle:** Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28" (70 cm). If elevated, 30" (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
 - Back through and around at least three (3) markers.
 - Back through "L," "V," "U," straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".

Optional Obstacles, but not limited to:

- Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
- Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be a minimum of 6' (1.8 meters) for jog.
- Carry object from one part of arena to another. (only objects which might reasonably be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
- Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" (90 cm) wide and at least six feet long.) Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
- Put on and remove a slicker.
- Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30cm) maximum).

- An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7 feet long (1.5 to 2 meters) long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over the log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider will execute a turn and depart.
- Any other safe and negotiable obstacle, which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.
- A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

Unacceptable obstacles

- Animals
- Jumps
- Logs or poles elevated in a manner permitting them to roll.
- Hides
- Rocking or moving bridges
- PVC pipe
- Fire extinguishers
- Ground ties
- Water box with floating or moving parts.

COLT TO MATURITY PROJECT - YEARLING IN-HAND TRAIL:

Required abilities:

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse at halter in maneuvering the obstacles. A trail course to be set may include 4 trot-overs, bridge, gate, mailbox, and backing element. Obstacles will not be raised (trot-overs and bridge).

Criteria:

- Conditioning and conformation 20%
- Handling/ Course Completion 80%

HUNTER HACK CLASS

Hunter hack is a type of English pleasure class where exhibitors in Hunt seat tack and attire perform on the flat at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop, and then jump two low fences. Hunter hacks are scored on their manners, gait, and conformation, as well as their ability to jump with an even arc and stride over the center of the fences. Points are taken off for excessive speed or slowness, breaking gait or failing to take a gait when called for, carrying the head too high or low, taking the wrong lead at the canter, the rider being on the wrong diagonal at the trot, the horse nosing out or flexing behind the vertical, and stumbling.

Lewis and Clark County offers Hunter Hack classes according to jump heights. All beginners to this class must start with the 18" height. All members will be expected to walk, trot and/or lope as directed by the judge.

Criteria

- Manners 40%

- Gait 20%
- Conformation 20%
- Jumping 20%

The rider will need to demonstrate the following:

- Rail work
- Back the horse up
- Have light contact with horse's mouth
- Stand quietly on free rein
- The horse should have free movement and manners
- May be asked to hand gallop
- May be asked to drop irons
- Horse and rider should demonstrate style over fence
- Horse should have an even hunting pace
- Horse should jump fences without interrupting rhythm
- Horse should jump at the center of the fence.
- Cavaletties are used for correct stride

General Rules

- ASTM-SEI approved helmet is required. Tack and appointments as listed for English classes.
- Management will provide at least one practice jump.
- **Horses must be 4 years of age or older and must be sound.**
- The course will be designed with proper intervals, keeping safety in mind, with final approval of course by the judge prior to commencement of the class.
- Member must be enrolled/assessed at Level II or higher
- For riders 13 years and under, fences may not exceed 2'3".
- For riders 14 years and older, fences may not exceed 2'6".
- If a member places with a blue ribbon or higher ribbon at the County Fair, the member must move up to the next height providing that it is the same horse and rider combination.

Performance

- Class is judged on the rider's ability to negotiate a course of at least two fences, demonstrating proper position of seat, hands and legs, and control of the horse.
- The judge will signal the contestant when ready to begin. A courtesy circle is allowed before the first fence.
- Jumping faults of the horse are not considered unless the faults were caused by the rider. Major faults which may result in elimination include: going off course, three cumulative refusals or a fall.
- Loss of iron, loss of rein, breaking gait or knockdowns are also faults and will result in penalties.
- The judge may call for individual work or equitation tests.

Acknowledgment of Horse Policy Manual

We, member and legal guardian, acknowledge that we have received a copy of the Lewis & Clark County 4-H Horse Policy Manual. As an enrolled member in a 4-H Horse Project and as legal guardians of the member, we agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined within this manual.

Printed 4-H Member Name: _____ DOB: _____

Signature of 4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

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Signature of 4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

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